

RESEARCH ASSOCIATE IN CONSUMER REQUIREMENTS FOR LOW TEMPERATURE NETWORKS

Understanding consumers' requirements for low temperature networks – qualitative researcher

REQ191085

As part of the University's ongoing commitment to redeployment, please note that this vacancy may be withdrawn at any stage of the recruitment process if a suitable redeployee is identified.

Job Description

Loughborough University's School of Design & Creative Arts is seeking an experienced qualitative researcher who can further our understanding of the user requirements for low temperature networks in the UK. The post holder will support the LoT-NET project and is expected to have a background in qualitative research, evidenced through collecting data from people in homes and analysing the data using established qualitative analysis approaches. Applicants are likely to be from a user centred design, design research, human factors, psychology or social science background. The post is for 2.5 years full time from 1 January 2020; a part time post is possible, spreading the 2.5 years over a maximum of 4.

PROJECT: 4S-DHW

Lot-NET is a 5 year Programme Grant funded by EPSRC and aims to prove a cost-effective near-zero emissions solution for heating and cooling that realises the huge potential of waste heat and renewable energies by utilising a combination of a low-cost low-loss flexible heat distribution network together with novel input, output and storage technologies. The project is a collaboration between Warwick University, Loughborough University, University of Ulster and London South Bank University. As a whole, it considers how waste heat streams from industrial or other sources feeding into low temperature heat networks can combine with optimal heat pump and thermal storage technologies to meet the heating and cooling needs of UK buildings and industrial processes.

Loughborough University's School of Design & Creative Arts is leading the work to determine key end use requirements for timely adoption of the proposed technology. To do this, we need to understand consumer's requirements and preferences for energy storage and networks. These consumer preferences will be investigated by the use of appropriate qualitative methods carried out by the post holder, to identify user requirements and determine constraints. We anticipate the role including gathering new data through interviews and focus groups with householders and other stakeholders and analysing existing data.

The post holder will be part of Loughborough Design, which is located in a £21million state-of-the-art building, and brings together teams of staff with world leading reputations for their research, teaching and wider stakeholder collaborations. They will be expected to work with colleagues from the Centre for Renewable Energy Systems Technology, at Loughborough University, as well as the other project partners, who will provide support with the technical aspects of the research.

Please note, an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check may be required for this post.

Job Grade Specialist and Supporting Academic Grade 6

Job Purpose

A Research Associate is required to work on the EPSRC-funded project, LoT-NET, to undertake qualitative research around the user requirements for low temperature networks.

JOB DUTIES

The main duties of the successful applicant will be:

1. To design, organise and undertake research for the LoT-NET project. Specifically:
 - a. to develop user centred methods to understand householders' requirements for energy storage and feedback;
 - b. to determine how users will interact with low temperature networks.
2. To author original work for submission to peer-reviewed journals.
3. To prepare reports and papers for presentation at national and international conferences and meetings.
4. To work with the other members of the research team when appropriate.
5. To be aware of and comply with, research governance and data protection legislation; and to ensure that research activity, data collection and management comply with these demands.
6. To attend meetings and other events appropriate to the project and give progress reports as required.
7. In collaboration with senior staff, to identify and undertake a programme of professional development, including further training in research methods and other transferable skills as required.
8. To carry out specific other duties as may be reasonably requested by the project leader and that are commensurate with the nature and grade of the post.

Other:

- All staff have a statutory responsibility to take reasonable care of themselves, others and the environment and to prevent harm by their acts or omissions. All staff are therefore required to adhere to the University's Health, Safety and Environmental Policy & Procedures.
- All staff should hold a duty and commitment to observing the University's Equality & Diversity policy and procedures at all times. Duties must be carried out in accordance with relevant Equality & Diversity legislation and University policies/procedures
- To review on a continuous basis relevant developments reported in the scientific and technical literature.
- To pursue excellence and maintain high standards of safety in all activities.

General and administrative:

- To work effectively with relevant administrative, technical and academic staff in the School and across the University.
- To engage in training programmes in the University (e.g. through Staff Development) which are consistent with your needs and aspirations and those of the project team and the School.
- To carry out specific other duties as may be reasonably requested by the project leader and that are commensurate with the nature and grade of the post.

Points to Note

The purpose of this job description is to indicate the general level of duties and responsibility of the post. The detailed duties may vary from time to time without changing the general character or level of responsibility entailed.

Organisational Responsibility

Reports to Dr Victoria Haines, Principal Investigator

Person Specification

Your application will be reviewed with respect to meeting the essential and desirable criteria listed below. Your application will be reviewed against the essential and desirable criteria listed below. Applicants are strongly advised to explicitly state and evidence how they meet each of the essential (and desirable) criteria in their application. Stages of assessment are as follows:

- 1 – Application
- 2 – Test/Assessment Centre/Presentation
- 3 – Interview

Essential Criteria

Area	Criteria	Stage
Education and Qualifications	A good first degree in a relevant discipline	1
	Holds (or near to completing) a PhD in a relevant user centred design discipline	1
Experience	Experience of collecting and analysing qualitative data	1,3
	Experience of user centred design methods including surveys, interviews and focus groups	1,3
	Experience of interacting with ends users in a research context	1,3
	Authoring original work for academic journal papers, conference papers or technical reports	1,3
	Experience of using qualitative data management software (e.g. NVivo) and presenting the outcomes of data analysis	1,3
Skills, Abilities and Knowledge	Excellent written, visual and oral communication skills – including writing for academic and professional audiences	1,3
	Ability to coordinate project activities, manage project tasks, prioritise and meet deadlines	1,3
	Ability to work independently and as part of a team	1,3
	Excellent interpersonal and organisational skills	1,3
	Good analytical and IT skills	1,3
Training	Willingness to undertake appropriate further training and to adopt new procedures as and when required.	3
Equality and Diversity	Evidence a good working knowledge of equal opportunities and understanding of diversity in the workplace	1,3
Other	Willingness and ability to travel	3
	Commitment to maintain confidentiality at all times	3

Desirable Criteria

Area	Criteria	Stage
Experience	Experience of conducting research into energy demand	1,3
	Experience of working with others in a research context	1,3
	Experience of interacting with householders in a research context	1,3
	Experience of cross-disciplinary research	1,3
Skills, Abilities and Knowledge	Knowledge of current UK Government policy in housing energy demand	1,3

	Knowledge of relevant ethical issues	1,3
	Knowledge of relevant Health & Safety issues	1,3
Other	Valid licence for driving in the UK	1,3
	Able and willing to work evenings away from the University	3

Conditions of Service

The position is **full-time** and **fixed-term** for 30 months in the first instance, but part-time working over a longer fixed term period may be considered. Salary will be on Specialist and Supporting Academic Grade 6 (starting salary £30,942 -£40,322 per annum) at starting salary to be confirmed on offer of appointment.

The appointment will be subject to the University's normal Terms and Conditions of Employment for Grade 6 and above staff, details of which can be found [here](#).

The University is committed to enabling staff to maintain a healthy work-home balance and has a number of family-friendly policies which are available at <http://www.lboro.ac.uk/services/hr/a-z/family-leave-policy-and-procedure---page.html>.

We also offer an on-campus nursery with subsidised places, subsidised places at local holiday clubs and a childcare voucher scheme (further details are available at: <http://www.lboro.ac.uk/services/hr/a-z/childcare-information---page.html>)

In addition, the University is supportive, wherever possible, of flexible working arrangements. We also strive to create a culture that supports equality and celebrates diversity throughout the campus. The University holds a Bronze Athena SWAN award which recognises the importance of support for women at all stages of their academic career. For further information on Athena SWAN see <http://www.lboro.ac.uk/services/hr/athena-swan/>